

**BEST AVAILABLE COPY**

Serial No. 09/777,849

BRÖCKER et al.

PF 0000051157

cated woven or knitted fabric. For clarification, applicants have revised the body of the claim to refer to a stage of

shaping a fabricated woven or knitted fabric which is in the form of continuous web goods is shaped to give a package by stacking a plurality of layers thereof of said fabric one on top of the other to give a package, which comprises

cutting segments (S) out of the package, and

assembling them the segments (S) to give one or more course(s) which completely fill the reactor cross section.

The Examiner's reasons for finding that Claim 3 was indefinite should therefore be obviated, and withdrawal of the respective rejection is respectfully solicited.

With regard to Claim 18, the Examiner criticized that the expression "... segments (S) adjacent to one another in each case at their rectangular faces ..." lacked appropriate antecedent basis. Accordingly, applicants have revised the wording of Claim 18 to state that

each of the segments (S) has at least one rectangular face and segments (S) which are arranged adjacent to one another in each case at their rectangular faces are arranged symmetrically to one another with regard to the rectangular face.

The Examiner's reasons for finding that Claim 18 was indefinite should therefore also be obviated, and withdrawal of the respective rejection is respectfully solicited.

Claims 4 to 17 were included in the rejection by the Examiner for being dependent upon a rejected claim. In light of the foregoing and the attached, all claims should therefore now be in condition for allowance.

Entry and consideration of the foregoing and the attached is deemed equitable since the respective issues were raised by the Examiner for the first time in the final action. Accordingly, applicants could not have made the changes obviating the issues at an earlier stage of the proceedings. Also, the revisions merely obviate the newly raised issues without changing the claims in a manner which would add new matter and/or which would necessitate a further substantial examination and/or search on the part of the Examiner.

The changes are deemed to place the application in condition for allowance, and favorable action by the Examiner is respectfully solicited.

060327

- 2 -

**BEST AVAILABLE COPY**

Serial No. 09/777,849

BROCKER et al.

PF 0000051157

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including Extension of Time fees, to Deposit Account No. 14.1437. Please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,  
NOVAK DRUCE DELUCA & QUIGG



Jason D. Voight  
Reg. No. 42,205

1300 Eye Street, N.W.  
Suite 400 East Tower  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
(202) 659-0100

Encl.: CLAIM AMENDMENTS (Appendix I)

JDV/BAS

060327

- 3 -

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Serial No. 09/777,849

BRÖCKER et al.

PP 0000051157

## APPENDIX I:

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

Amend Claims 3 and 18 as indicated in the following listing of the claims:

1. - 2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) A process for the production of catalyst packing for a reactor, the catalyst packing having one or more course(s) that completely fill the reactor cross section, and the catalyst packing comprising a plurality of stacked layers of fabricated woven or knitted fabric in the form of continuous web goods, wherein the layers are arranged perpendicular to the principal flow direction in the reactor, and a course is formed from at least three segments (S), which the process wherein comprises shaping a fabricated woven or knitted fabric which is in the form of continuous web goods is shaped to give a package by stacking a plurality of layers thereof of said fabric one on top of the other to give a package, which comprises cutting segments (S) out of the package, and assembling ~~them~~ the segments (S) to give one or more course(s) which completely fill the reactor cross section.

4. (original) A process as claimed in claim 3, wherein respective stacked layers in a package are rotated by 180° to one another.

5. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 3, wherein the following sequence of cuts is used to separate the segments (S) from the package:

- a) a first segment (S) with a length equal to twice the reactor radius or a first pair of segments with a length equal to the reactor radius for placing in the center of the reactor cross section is removed by rectangular cuts,
- b) two further pairs of segments each with length  $2 \cdot l_1$ , where

$$l_1 = \sqrt{r^2 - x^2}$$

where  $r$  = reactor internal radius and  $x$  = web width of the package,

are removed by rectangular cuts and are subsequently divided into in each case two geometrically identical segments (S) by

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Serial No. 09/777,849

BRÖCKER et al.

PF 0000051157

an inclined cut along the tangents at the reactor interior circle at a point  $T_1$  which is at a distance  $x$  from the longitudinal axis of the first segment (S), for placing on both sides of the first, central segment (S), and

- c) optionally further pairs of segments are removed, in each case in double the number corresponding to the cut sequence in b), with a length  $2 \cdot l_i$ , where  $i$  = natural number,  $i \geq 2$ , where

$$l_i = \sqrt{r^2 - i \cdot x^2}$$

and where the point  $T_1$  at which the tangent to the reactor interior circle is placed is in each case at a distance of  $i$  times  $x$  from the longitudinal axis of the first, central segment (S), and

- d) in order to fill the two edge gaps, segments (S) are removed from the package analogously to a), b) and c), but for insertion rotated by an angle of  $90^\circ$  to the segments (S) already inserted.

6. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 3, wherein continuous web goods having a width of from 50 to 500 mm are employed.
7. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 3, wherein a package having a thickness of from 40 to 400 mm is produced by stacking the continuous web goods.
8. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 3, wherein one or more grille(s) is (are) arranged in the reactor for accommodating the course(s).
9. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 8, wherein from 1 to 6 course(s) is (are) arranged on a grille.
10. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 3, wherein the segments (S) arranged one on top of the other in the reactor longitudinal direction in two successive courses are in each case arranged rotated with respect to one another.
11. (previously presented) A method of conducting a catalytic reaction which comprises providing the catalyst packing produced as claimed in claim 3 and arranging the catalyst packing in a reactor for catalytic reactions.



**BEST AVAILABLE COPY**

Serial No. 09/777,849

BRÖCKER et al.

PP 0000051157

12. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 6, wherein the width of the continuous web goods is from 100 to 300 mm.
13. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 7, wherein the thickness of the package is from 100 to 250 mm.
14. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 8, wherein the grilles are connected to one another and/or to the reactor internal wall.
15. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 9, wherein from 2 to 4 courses are arranged on a grille.
16. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 10, wherein the segments (S) are in each case arranged rotated with respect to one another by an angle of 45°.
17. (previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the catalytic reaction is a hydrogenation, a selective hydrogenation, a selective oxidation or an isomerization reaction.
18. (currently amended) The process of claim 3 wherein each of the segments (S) has at least one rectangular face and segments (S) which are arranged adjacent to one another in each case at their rectangular faces are arranged symmetrically to one another with regard to the rectangular face.